W5YI

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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...and much, much more!

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GREAT BRITAIN ADOPTS NOVICE CLASS

Ordinarily it wouldn't be news that Great Britain is is the process of adopting a Novice amateur radio operator license. What is significant, however, is the fact that the United Kingdom has had a code-free ham license for some twenty-five years and Great Britain still feels the need to further simplify entry into its amateur radio service.

Amateur Radio in the United Kingdom

There are two general types of ham licenses in the UK. The Class "A" yields all privileges once an applicant passes the *Radio Amateurs Examination* (RAE) and a 12 word-per-minute Morse sending and receiving test. The Class "B" requires the same RAE, but no Morse code test. No-code Class "B" licensees have all mode access to all bands except those below 30 MHz. They may upgrade to HF opeatrion by simply taking the 12 wpm code test. A simple and effective licensing system indeed.

The UK's *Department of Trade and Industry* (DTI, similar to our FCC) introduced the Class "B" code-free license in 1964. At that time it permitted only 420 MHz operation and above. Fewer than one thousand British Class "B" licenses were issued during the first four years. It wasn't until 1968 when the DTI added the two meter band that the license became relatively popular. By 1970, the annual increase in Class B licenses was greater than that of Class "A". This trend has continued to the present day. Many code-free licensees go on to take the Morse test and transfer to the full privilege Class "A".

By 1984, the number of Class "B" licensees in the UK exceeded the number of Class "A" amateurs. The latest figures show a slight reversal of this trend. There are approximately 59 thousand radio amateurs in the United Kingdom - about 32 thousand hold the Class "A" ticket; 27 thousand are Class "B".

The United States has had a Novice "beginners" ham license for about the same length of time England has had a code-free VHF/UHF ham class. And similar to the U.S. Novice ticket, there was much apprehension in the United Kingdom about issuing ham to the seemingly unqualified.

Today, Class 'B' operation has become a major part of the UK amateur radio scene with activities taking place all over the spectrum. Packet radio and 2-meter operation are the most popular. Undoubtedly, without the Class "B" license, the UK amateur population would be much smaller than it is today.

Despite the availability of a no-code entry in Britain, the RSGB *(Radio Society of Great Britain* ...the voice of the UK amateur) shares the concern of the ARRL and others about the failure of amateur radio to attract bright young newcomers. There are less than 200 amateurs in Britain under the age of 18.

The RSGB and the British government attach great importance to recruiting many more amateurs; not only to insure the future of ham radio but, more importantly, to encourage young people to pursue the exploding field of sophisticated telecommunications.

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The RSGB's answer is to promote the idea of a Novice license with an easier entrance examination and a 5 word-per-minute code test.

On April 19, 1990, the DTI announced a new licensing procedure aimed to encourage more young people to take an interest in Amateur Radio. "The value of Amateur Radio as a training ground for careers in electronics and radio engineering has long been recognized by both government and the radio industry", their press notice reads.

The system, planned for introduction by Spring 1991, will allow Novice amateurs to operate at low power on limited segments of the wavebands allocated to amateur radio. In order to qualify for one the new Novice licenses, applicants will be required to complete a practical RSGB training course and pass a Novice license examination. There will be no minimum age for Novice licensees and it appears the license fee will be waived for applicants under age 21.

Interestingly there will be not one, but two Novice licenses! A ***Novice "A"*** and a ***Novice "B".*** The Novice "A" requires passing a 5 word-per-minute Morse code test in addition to a simplified written examination. The code-free Novice "B" only allows privileges above 30 MHz. Existing Class "B" licensees (VHF only) of at least one year's standing will be granted the HF privileges of the Novice "A" license if they pass a 5 w.p.m. Morse test.

Operating Privileges for U.K. Novices

Freq. Bands in MHz.	Available to Novice:	Permitted Modes of Operation:
1.950 - 2.000	A	Morse, Telephony, RTTY, Data
3.565 - 3.585	A	Morse
10.130 - 10.140	A	Morse
21.100 - 21.149	A	Morse
28.100 - 28.190	A	Morse, RTTY, Data
28.225 - 28.300	A	Morse, RTTY, Data
28.300 - 28.500	A	Morse, Telephony
50.620 - 50.760	A & B	Data
50.250 - 51.750	A & B	Morse, Telephony, Data
433.0 - 435.0	A & B	Morse, Telephony, Data
1240 - 1325	A & B	Morse, Telephony, RTTY, Data, Facsimile, SSTV, FSTV
10000 - 10500	A & B	Morse, Telephony, RTTY, Data, Facsimile, SSTV, FSTV

There will be no privileges on 40, 20 or 2 meters for British Novices.

Even though they have had considerable experience with a code-free admission into amateur radio, the U.K. believes there is a need to further simplify entry into ham radio - especially for the youth of their nation. The United States has a Novice class with prerequisites not too much different from those to be implemented in Great Britain. The U.S. also feels it beneficial to interest young people to seek a high-tech career. The U.K.'s "carrot" will be a *Novice* ticket; the United States, the code-free *Communicator.*

There is also an interesting parallel between the actions of the United Kingdom and Canada. Neither has had an amateur licensing line-up that allowed beginners with minimum criteria to enter amateur radio. Both will be shortly implementing such a system ...and at about the same time. The U.K. with a Novice (both code and no code) and Canada with a code-free modular licensing scheme. Both nations will only have two written examinations - a beginning and advanced theory test - and two telegraphy examinations; 5 and 12 words per minute.

Code-free operation in other countries

Australia is also in the process of restructuring their amateur radio program. They have been very successful with their no-code licence and 25% of their amateurs hold a code-free ticket. They are now aiming for a four class system. They will implement a no-code (VHF only) Novice, code Novice, no-code (VHF/UHF) full license and a full license. The only difference between the Australian no-code and code "full" license is the Morse requirement. Again, not much different than Canada and the U.K.

From reviewing the the amateur radio licensing schemes of several countries, it appears to us that the consensus international licensing arrangement provides for four classes or levels. An easy-to-qualify-for Beginner class - with and without a 5 wpm code requirement and an Advanced class, again - with and without 12 wpm Morse knowledge.

The code proficient licensees get to operate on all amateur bands; the code-free are restricted to operation above 30 MHz. We found no nation that had five ...much less six (Novice, Technician, Communicator, General, Advanced and Extra) amateur radio classes.

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"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my station or

It also appears to us that international licensing schemes are increasingly recognizing that no longer does an amateur radio operator need to be able to repair or build his equipment. While knowledge in the basics is certainly important, ham gear has gotten so complex that many amateurs do not have the expertise to follow a schematic of today's microprocessor based equipment much less build it from scratch.

Amateur radio now goes in dozens of different directions! No longer is it just CW, analog phone ...and praying for radio wave propagation. Ham radio now contains many different side hobbies and new sophisticated modes are being developed all the time! The rules of yesterday are constantly being shattered by the technology of tomorrow.

Typing test to enter ham radio?

Do you remember the piece we did in our March 1st issue about the Israeli suggestion to replace the CW exam required for HF operation with demonstrated proficiency in manual computer entry?

The *Israel Amateur Radio Club* is the recognized amateur voice of Israel. At the *IARU Region 1 Conference* held last month at Castillo Santa Clara, Spain, Israel formally proposed that a test in manual keyboard entry, data codes and digital operating procedures be substituted for Morse code sending and receiving knowledge. Israel wanted a modern day proficiency demonstration that would be more in keeping with the present data operating modes of amateur radio.

The Israeli proposal closed with, "It is felt that introduction of the measures proposed will not only prove attractive to the 'computer generation', but will also fully satisfy the concept of self training."

The proposal was indeed put forth at the *IARU Region 1 Conference* in Spain. It was defeated by a vote of 30 countries against ...with 9 countries in favor of the proposal. France, surprisingly, was one of the nations voting for the measure. The Board of Directors of REF (the French national amateur radio society) agreed that no Morse examination should be necessary *for aceess to any frequency.* The French delegation said they were not against CW ...just against the Morse examination.

The French government is supposedly prepared to give their amateurs access to all frequencies including those below 30 MHz without a demonstration of CW knowledge. How France will get around the ITU guidelines requiring Morse proficiency below 30 MHz is not clear.

The other favorable votes cast for the Israeli proposal came from Cyprus, Faroe Islands, Hungary, Portugal, Finland, Gabon and Spain.

The primary purpose of the ITU's *Radio Regulations* is, of course, to minimize interference between the various nations of the world. Japan allows codeless amateur operation on all HF bands (except 10 and 14 MHz) by simply declaring that it doesn't interfere with the amateur services of other countries.

Japan has two routes into amateur radio. The Third and Fourth Class (lifetime) licenses are administered by the JARL *(Japan Amateur Radio League.)* Both allow operation on all ham bands except 10 and 14 MHz. The Fourth Class license permits 10 watt radiotelephone privileges once a written test is passed at the end of a JARL prescribed course. Pass 5 wpm Morse and Third Class (25 watt) all mode operation is allowed.

The Japanese government administers the Second class (9 wpm Morse plus a written test) yielding 100 watts on all bands/modes and the higher power First Class ticket ...which requires two more code tests; 12 wpm International Morse and 10 wpm Japanese Morse.

Eighty percent of Japan's 1.5 million amateurs hold only the 10 watt Fourth Class phone license. (Less than 1% hold the First Class ticket.) Station licenses are separate from the lifetime ham operating permits. There are 970,000 station licenses in Japan which must be renewed every five years.

WESTERN HAMS TO ACCESS 902-928 MHZ

When the FCC made the 33 cm (902-928) MHz band available to the Amateur Service in the mid-80's, it decided not to permit amateur access in portions of Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Texas. These prohibitions -- intended to protect sensitive military operations -- were codified in §97.303(g)(1) and (2).

Last year, ***Whit Brown, WBØCJX,*** of the *Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs* (CCARC) asked the FCC for a waiver of this rule and a *Special Temporary Authorization* to allow hams to use the band

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in the restricted area of Colorado. To support its request, CCARC said that access to the 902 band would relieve congestion by opening up more repeater channels, and would allow linking of stations within Colorado and with stations in surrounding areas that do not fall under the 97.303 prohibition.

The FCC took notice that CCARC's request also included scientific content. The amateurs want to investigate the propagation effect of winter snow/ice freezing, glazing and melting at these frequencies, and in presenting the results of these investigations in technical papers and seminars.

Monitoring shows little use CCARC said that its members have expended "considerable time" monitoring the band and found no activity in the Denver area. It conceded that this monitoring may not indicate all point-to-point or brief burst transmissions of other users, but that it has established the "minimal activity" on frequencies in this band in Denver.

The FCC said that the presence of Government fixed stations in the band means that it can't open the band up to the extent that CCARC wished. But, it said "Discussions with the Government users indicate that amateur stations located in the restricted area can transmit within certain segments of the 33 cm band without causing interference to the Government fixed operations. These segments are 902.0-902.4, 902.6-904.3, 904.7-925.3, 925.7-927.3, and 927.7-928.0 MHz."

The FCC said that it decided to resolve the issue through a rule waiver this time instead of a rule change, because Government users in the band indicated that they will move their point-to-point microwave circuits out of 902-928 MHz to new bands above 932 MHz when those bands become available. "Once all Government fixed users operating in the 902-928 MHz band in the restricted area have changed frequencies, the Commission will consider removing the area restriction on amateur stations entirely," the FCC said in its May 16 Order (DA 90-693).

Must accept interference

The FCC reminds you that the other restrictions on 902-928 MHz still apply. In particular, the band is allocated on a secondary basis to Amateur Radio. Amateurs may not cause harmful interference to, and must accept any interference from, industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) devices, government stations or automatic vehicle monitoring (AVM) systems operating in these frequencies.

We have written previously about one type of AVM system: Teletrac, a network of consumer-priced anti-theft car locators that is preparing for a full commercial rollout. Teletrac uses paging towers located around a city in the 902-928 MHz band.

Also, numerous §Part 15 non-licensed products are moving into the band. But many of these use spread-spectrum technology and may not necessarily be perceptible on the air. These are mostly radio local-area networks.

SATELLITE RADIO BROADCASTING

Two Washington-based companies just announced -- on the same day (May 18) -- their intention to seek FCC permission to broadcast radio programming to the American public via satellite.

Of course, much of today's network radio programming is already "via satellite." But these programs are picked up by local broadcast stations who retransmit them to the listener. There have been some direct-to-home dish stations such as K-SAT and FM America, but they have not achieved truly mass-market status.

Satellite CD Radio Inc. president Peter Dolan said his service will have 100 channels of programs, and both local and national/regional services are proposed. The programming will come from existing broadcast stations that choose to operate as radio "superstations."

New CD Radio receivers for cars are estimated to cost less than $200. Two 6 KW satellites are expected to be built by Ford, General Electric or Hughes. So far, we don't know how much spectrum Satellite CD Radio is requesting from the FCC for its system.

Radio Satellite Corp. is taking a different approach. It will petition for a license for a ground gateway station. The service will operate through a satellite to be launched by the American Mobile Satellite Corporation (AMSC) in 1993. RSC plans to resell the capacity it leases from AMSC to broadcast, paging and mobile communications companies.

AMSC received FCC permission last year to

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construct and operate a mobile satellite system for service to the United States. We had expected that the AMSC satellite would be mostly devoted to communications with large trucks and aircraft, but RSC is planning to use it for a consumer service, according to company president Gary Noreen.

At the core of RSC's proposal is a mobile radio that simultaneously provides alphanumeric paging, digital audio and data broadcasts, navigation and two-way data messages. RSC plans for these radios to be available through all major retail electronic outlets by the Christmas 1993 sales season. The company says that it designed its system to integrate all mobile satellite services with mass market potential into one low-cost radio that will cost little more than conventional AM/FM radios. The antenna will be smaller than typical car antennas, as the satellite operates in the 1.6 GHz band.

RSC will broadcast 10 digital audio channels throughout the United States using just 1 MHz of spectrum. RSC's navigation service will determine vehicle location to within 2 meters. The data service will send sport updates, stock quotes, travel and weather advisories, emergency alarms, and other messages to radios.

● The June issue of *Discover* magazine reports that digital radio is just getting started in Europe. Before the digital audience can grow, digital radio receivers must be mass marketed. They report only one company, Germany's Telefunken, is selling digital radio receivers. Their radio which is able to separate 16 multiplexed signals transmitted on a single frequency retails for more than $1,000!

● The FCC is taken steps aimed towards revitalizing the present broadcast AM radio band. FM radio, with its greater audio range, has consistently been improving its listener ratings at the expense of AM. The FCC now proposes to shift up to 400 congested radio stations to a newly added portion of the AM band. (WARC-79 extended the AM broadcast band by another 100 kHz to 1705 kHz.) It is expected that the new AM broadcast frequencies will become available next year. Stations choosing to make the move to the new (1605 to 1705 kHz) AM band will be allowed to simulcast on both their old and new frequencies while radio receiver manufacturers gear up to provide the public with equipment capable of tuning the new spectrum. The FCC is also considering making stereo broadcasting mandatory in the new expanded AM broadcast band.

APRIL VE PROGRAM STATISTICS

April	***1988***	***1989***	***1990***
No. VEC's	****18***	****18***	****18***
Testing Sessions	***378***	***457***	***528***
VEC	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*
W5YI	35.2%	28.0%	41.3%
ARRL	39.4%	43.5	35.2
CAVEC	7.1	4.2	5.5
DeVry	5.3	4.2	3.8
Others	16.3	20.1	14.2
Year-to-Date Sess:	***1518***	***1727***	***1989***
Elements Administ.	***8707***	***9256***	***10677***
VEC	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*
ARRL	48.6%	48.0%	45.0%
W5YI	29.4	24.7	33.1
CAVEC	6.1	4.7	7.1
DeVry	3.5	3.1	2.9
Others	12.4	19.5	11.9
Year-to-Date Elem.	***31759***	***32633***	***37006***
Applicants Tested	***5142***	***5503***	***6594***
VEC	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*
ARRL	47.3%	48.3%	44.3%
W5YI	35.2	31.4	34.3%
CAVEC	5.6	4.4	6.1
DeVry	3.6	3.1	3.2
Others	8.0	12.8	12.1
Year-to-Date Tested	***18646***	***19324***	***22242***

April	***1988***	***1989***	***1990***
Pass Rate - All	61.9%	62.2%	60.5%
Upgraded - W5YI	55.8%	61.8%	57.5%
Applicants/Session	13.6	12.0	12.5
Appl./Session W5YI	10.4	10.4	10.5
Elements/Applicant	1.7	1.7	1.6
Sessions Per VEC	21.0*	25.4*	29.3*

Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's

April	**1988**	**1989**	**1990**
Defect. Applications	0.6%	1.1%	1.3%
Late Filed Sessions	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%
Defective Reports	2.4%	2.0%	0.6%

***Note:** The FCC previously considered ARRL, W5YI and DeVry to be 13 VEC's each since VEC's initially were appointed on a regional basis. Since any VEC may now coordinate examinations in any region, the FCC reduced the number of VEC Regions (62) to VEC Organizations (18). We have adjusted 1988 and 1989 figures to reflect this change.

[Source: Personal Radio Branch/FCC; Washington, D.C.]

PROGRESS IN RECEIVER LAW FIGHT

We're happy to report some good news in ARRL's effort to get the FCC to pre-empt local and state laws that prevent amateurs from having radio receivers. In our April 1 issue, we explained that harassment and arrest of amateurs and confiscation of ham equipment in some states prompted the League to file a *Request for Declaratory Ruling.* If granted, the ruling would likely declare that the FCC overrides any local laws that prohibit licensed amateurs from having equipment capable of receiving some public-safety frequencies (police, fire).

(The situation is similar to the 1985 PRB-1 case, in which the FCC granted an ARRL request for federal pre-emption of local and state regulation of amateur antennas. In a nutshell, local and state authorities may still enact some health, safety or aesthetic regulations on antennas, but they must not have the effect of prohibiting normal amateur operation. They must also represent the "minimum" regulation necessary to achieve the local authority's purpose (see §97.15(e)).

Public-safety support!

Numerous amateurs filed comments in favor of the receiver laws Request. The most favorable development, however, comes from a significant source: the *Associated Public Safety Communications Officers Inc.* (APCO), which is the national society of communication chiefs in police and sheriffs departments, state patrols, etc. APCO has over 8,000 members and is based in New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

APCO -- always an influential lobbying voice at the FCC – supported the ARRL position in comments just filed. Here are some excerpts from its statement:

"In this day of massive efforts to circumvent the law, especially in the distribution of illegal narcotics, it is common to find devices capable of receiving radio transmissions associated with criminal cases. In such cases, where the criminal has used this reception to promote illegal activities, APCO believes that laws to deter such use are necessary. ...

"The mere presence, however, of a receiver capable of receiving public safety radio transmissions should ***not*** be grounds for prosecution, especially as pertains to radio amateurs. ...Every radio amateur is not the law-abiding citizen we would prefer them to be. However, it is patently unfair to penalize the entire community for the actions of the few who utilized their equipment to circumvent the law. Amateur radio operators have, historically, been vital assets to the public safety community. They have assisted government and the public in virtually every disaster that has occurred throughout the world.

"There are other methods of protecting communications available to public safety, such as encryption which is easy to procure and much less invasive of the citizen's right (or privilege) to listen to what is being transmitted over the radio. APCO believes that, in this modern age, it is the responsibility of an agency to protect its own confidential communications through the use of technology, not by arresting innocent citizens. Therefore, APCO urges the Commission to grant ARRL its request for a declaratory ruling." (Signed) ***George Murray,*** President. (Murray is also ***WB4DYQ.)***

The problem is real

L.W. Bradford/KM5Y of Rowlett, Texas, told the FCC that he has been stopped in Ohio and in Kentucky, and asked about his mobile gear. "The only reason I was stopped was because of the obvious antennas on the car," he said. In one instance he was told the equipment would be confiscated if he did not leave town.

Todd Sherman/KB4MHH of Ocean City, NJ said that a local policeman stopped him to examine the inspection sticker on his car. The officer then tried to confiscate a hand-held scanner that was in his car. KB4MHH uses it to scan various repeaters, listening for calls from his father, also a ham. "Being from Florida -- where the state law specifically exempts amateurs from the restriction -- it never occurred to me to think that things might be different someplace else -- until too late," he said.

Sherman said he got his scanner back only because he actually challenged the officer on the spot: "I argued that for the City to try to regulate and hinder my federally given privileges would be a violation of my rights as a federally-licensed amateur radio operator." The officer then called his supervisor to the scene.

KB4MHH said that they returned his scanner to him, but warned him to go to the police station and get a permit from the Chief of Police.

Want to know about amateur radio license tests, amateurs wishing to upgrade ...even volunteer examiners administering tests under the Novice and VE/VEC System. Over 300 pages!
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GUARANTEED OR MONEY BACK

Cops speak out

Avon, Ohio police chief ***John R. Vilagi/N8KEL*** told the FCC, "In Lorain County, Ohio, we feel so strongly that amateur radio operators are an urgent necessity that we have made them an equal member of the *County Emergency Management Agency.* ...Their ability to monitor our public safety communications on a direct basis has eliminated one full level of communications, and added to the well-organized response to an incident."

Stephen Wolf/NO8M is a police officer in North Olmsted, Ohio (west of Cleveland). He said, "The law is written to prohibit the receiving of certain signals. The possession of an amateur transceiver, if capable of such reception, would be illegal. This is a YES-NO situation. A trained monkey wearing a badge knows that a violation has occurred and the result must be the impounding of the radio and issuance of a citation or indictment. ...Police officers WILL enforce these laws due to the ease of satisfying the elements and the prosecution being ensured." Officer Wolf said that pre-emption is "imperative" to the survival of mobile VHF and UHF amateur operation.

Expand the scope

Two other radio organizations favored pre-emption of the "scanner laws" -- with expanded coverage. The *Association of North American Radio Clubs* (ANARC), through its attorney ***Frank Terranella/ N2IGO,*** argued that it is not enough for the FCC to address the issue only in terms of FCC licensees: "By imposing restrictions on radio possession, a small number of states have set themselves up as radio listening licensors (especially in light of the fact that statutes like New Jersey's provide for a 'permit' process to carry a radio). Amateur Radio operators are licensed to *transmit* on certain frequencies. There is no license required under the laws of this nation for *anyone* to listen to the radio."

According to ANARC, ***John Partyka/N2JMD*** was arrested in January in Hamilton Township, NJ for possession of a dual-band 2m/440 MHz ham transceiver which incidentally received local police communications. N2JMD was not in a car at the time; he was in the parking lot of his apartment. There was never any allegation that he had used the radio improperly -- or even that the radio was used at all! The case was eventually dismissed administratively.

GMRS also affected

The *Personal Radio Steering Group Inc.* (PRSG) noted that hundreds of public safety agencies and organizations are licensed in the *General Mobile Radio Service* as well as private individuals. The FCC recently affirmed that GMRS is a personal radio service for individual and family use, but some police and fire departments still operate in the GMRS band. Therefore, GMRS licensees might be prosecuted even for monitoring their own channels to determine if the frequency is in use!

In addition -- and unlike amateur equipment -- 460 MHz GMRS radios are type-accepted by the FCC in *both* GMRS (§Part 95) and public safety radio services (§Part 90). This could define a GMRS radio as "capable" of picking up the 450-470 bands that public safety agencies use for their own communications. Without clarification of what "capable" means, PRSG said, "...the use of ANY GMRS transceiver whatsoever could be deemed to be in violation of local statutes."

Therefore, the group said that any FCC pre-emption must include GMRS: "Unfortunately, the experience of GMRS licensees indicates that the attitude and behavior of some local law-enforcement authorities demonstrates that such a clearly stated federal pre-emption is necessary."

SPAM: "HEAD OFF A.M. POWER CHANGE"

The *Society for the Promotion of Amplitude Modulation* (SPAM) has filed a petition with the FCC seeking to maintain the input power measurement for AM DSB operation. In 1983 the FCC replaced the input power standard with one limited to 1.5 KW peak envelope power (PEP). The 1 KW DC input power measurement was grandfathered until June 2, 1990.

"From 1960 to 1974 operation of AM DSB was on the decline," SPAM said. "At the rate of decline, by 1990 most if not all amateur stations would have stopped using AM. The Society and its members have worked very hard to turn this situation around." SPAM said that in 1983 it had 362 members but today has more than 1,000 and growing. Its roster information indicates that there is $1,420,000 worth of AM transmitters in use among members.

SPAM argues that when measured with PEP, AM

transmitters have considerably less interference potential than equally measured SSB signals; that peak reading power meters may not operate correctly with AM DSB emissions; that other radio services regulated by the Commission use separate standards for carrier emissions like AM DSB and those without carrier; and that with two standards one can have a common 1.5 KW limit which provides equal power limitations to all emissions.

"We are not asking for special treatment, rather, we are seeking a power limit which is equal and fair, which does not provide an advantage to any type of emission," SPAM told the FCC. The group asks that the input power standard be extended until the Commission acts on its petition. *(SPAM, P.O. Box 27, Potrero CA 92063.* ***Norman Scott/WB6TRQ,*** *president.)*

Subject: Reminder to No-Code commenters

We've learned that some amateurs who are filing comments on PR Docket 90-55 (No-code Communicator license) are forgetting to plainly state "PR Docket 90-55" in their comments. We again urge you to include this information. The FCC mailroom staff uses the docket number to determine where your comments go and they may not have much time to think about it.

The best way to ensure that your comments find their way to the proper file is to state "PR Docket 90-55" *at the top* of each page (not just somewhere within your commentary). Stand up and be counted in this important rulemaking proceeding -- file reasoned comments with the FCC!

RADIO CONTROL STANDARDS PROPOSED

The FCC has issued a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* which looks toward tightening the technical regulations applying to the 72-76 MHz Radio Control (R/C) Service. The new rules will reduce the permitted level of unwanted emissions and improve the frequency stability of transmitters used for remote control of model aircraft, boats and cars.

The FCC made eighty additional R/C channels available in the 72-76 MHz band in 1982 on a secondary basis. The band, which is sandwiched in between TV channels 4 and 5, is also shared with the Industrial, Land Transportation and Public Safety Services.

Because of the current technical standards, however, simultaneous adjacent R/C channel operation is often not possible at the same site. The current 72-76 MHz band plan of the *Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc.,* (AMA) essentially provides for the use of every other channel at the same flying site at the same time.

Consequently, Glen H. Whidden and the AMA petitioned the Commission to rectify this situation by requiring a decrease in the level of unwanted emissions and to increase the frequency stability of radio control transmitters. The AMA argued that adoption of narrowband standards would allow all available channels to be utilized, thus promoting a more efficient use of the radio spectrum as well as a safer, more flexible operational environment for model aircraft enthusiasts.

The Commission agreed that tightening the frequency tolerance and reducing extraneous transmitter signals operating in the 72-76 MHz R/C Service channels would promote spectrum efficiency by reducing the possibility of adjacent channel interference, thus permitting all channels to be used.

The AMA asked that the sale of all wideband R/C transmitters be curtailed as of December 20, 1990. To minimize the impact of the proposed changes on equipment manufacturers and dealers, however, the FCC has proposed that effective March 1, 1992, all R/C transmitters manufacturered in or imported into the United States must comply with the new narrowband standards. The Commission also set an effective date of March 1, 1993, for the mandatory marketing and sale of all such equipment.

If adopted, new §Part 95.623(c) will read: "On or after March 1, 1992, all R/C transmitters capable of operation in the 72-76 MHz band that are either manufactured in or imported into the United States, or are marketed or sold after March 1, 1993, must be maintained within a (narrowband) frequency tolerance of 0.002%. R/C transmitters operating in the 72-76 MHz band marketed or sold before March 1, 1993, may continue to operate with a (wideband) frequency tolerance of 0.005%. §Part 95.631(10) requires unwanted co-channel radiation to be attenuated by at least 45 dB.

Interested parties may file comments on or before August 10. Reply comments are due by September 14, 1990. *(Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released April 27, 1990, PR Docket 90-222)*

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National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

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● The Associated Press has recently distributed two bulletins of interest to the hobby radio fraternity. One concerns ***MARS Mother's Day messages from overseas.*** It seems that Mother's Day is by far the busiest holiday for the six Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) gateway stations located at Frederick, MD; San Antonio, TX; Seattle, WA; Seoul, Korea; Honolulu, Hawaii and Lohnsfeld, West Germany. Some 650,000 messages are handled annually by Fort Detrick, Maryland, alone. The gateway station sends each message to a regional MARS station which relays it to the state affiliate operator. From that point, messages are handled by ham radio operators.

● The other AP wire release concerns the ***dazzling new exhibit at Washington, D.C.'s Smithsonian Institution*** which traces the information revolution from Samuel F.B. Morse's first primitive telegraph to the modern day computer. The new display which opened May 16th is controversial in that the Smithsonian opted for the first time to let corporate sponsors (IBM, AT&T, Unisys, Xerox ...and other corporate giants) bankroll the multi-million dollar tab for the largest and most expensive exhibition ever presented at the Smithsonian. The museum director said the Smithsonian was forced to rely on private support because Congressional budget cuts had left the museum without federal funds for new exhibits. The display which covers 14,000 square feet has been five years in the making. The show includes 78 computers, 43 video monitors, 52 laser microdisc players, 20 'touch sceen' displays and 24 bar code scanners. Visitors begin with a view of Morse's original 1832 telegraph ...and exit through a hands-on state-of-the-art chamber of wonders. The exhibit includes a working 2-ton robot once used at a General Motors plant in Delaware. Viewers can even tap out SOS in a recreation of the Titanic's radio room ...and talk over the same telephone once used by Alexander Graham Bell. Museum officials said the exhibit will be constantly updated to reflect technological advances. (We plan to visit the exhibit on June 16th - the day after the VEC Conference held at Gettysburg, PA.)

● ***Camcorders are, without a doubt, the hottest selling electronic consumer gadget of the decade!*** There are many formats and features ...power zoom, auto focus, high speed shutters, slow-motion, freeze-frame, time lapse recording, audio/video dubbing, high resolution, superimposed digital character generators, editing capability ...and more! Here's how to save a bundle buying one. First check out the model that best suits you in your local area and make a list of two or three you are interested in. Then call one of the mail order outlets for the best deal. The top brands are all from Japan: Canon, Chinon, Hitachi, JVC, Kyocera, Magnavox, Minolta, Panasonic, Ricoh, Quasar, Sharp, Sony and Toshiba. The best selling format is VHS. Here is a list of toll free telephone numbers that sell camcorders via mail order at extremely competitive prices: Texas 1-800-877-2900, 1-800-558-0002, 1-800-843-3697, 1-800-622-6599; Washington 1-800-822-4472, 1-800-843-3687, 1-800-766-6710, 1-800-222-9064; New York 1-800-456-9890, 1-800-525-9922, 1-800-535-2237, 1-800-695-3535, 1-800-448-3738, 1-800-323-2325, 1-800-221-4090, 1-800-882-4460, 1-800-541-4055, 1-800-223-0322, 1-800-462-1338; Michigan 1-800-247-4663; New Jersey 1-800-628-6100, 1-800-777-1707, 1-800-524-1596, 1-800-444-6300, 1-800-736-9011, 1-800-247-4654; Oregon 1-800-222-1557; Wisconsin 1-800-356-9514; 1-800-558-0003; California 1-800-729-7978. All of these companies accept major credit cards and most will ship C.O.D. via regular UPS or Next Day/Second Day Air and overnight Federal Express. Remember you save the sales tax when goods are shipped to an out of state address. Be certain to ask the amount of the shipping/handling ...or any other additional charges when purchasing. And be aware that some firms will hold your personal check until it clears your bank. We have been gathering this list for the past six months ...all of these firms advertise nationally and all will be very aware you are shopping for the best price!

● The FCC announced on April 24th that it ***shut down a CB operator*** using the handle of "Hell Raiser" in Jamaica, New York. The FCC had ordered Dwayne Mayo to cease his CB operation until reported television interference could be resolved. Mayo was fined $1,600 for failing to heed that FCC order. The FCC then monitored Mayo using excessive power. With the assistance of U.S. Marshalls, FCC engineers seized twenty-seven pieces of radio equipment including five linear amplifiers capable of boosting transmitter power to 2,000 watts. The Department of Justice is proceeding with civil action against the equipment and the CB radio operator.

● ***Merger committees representing the two amateur organizations of Canada:*** CARF (Canadian Amateur Radio Federation) and CRRL (Canadian Radio Relay League) have agreed on a basic constitutional framework for a single amateur organization in Canada. Their recommendations will next be considered by the Boards of CARF and CRRL.

● ***Heath-Zenith is changing its sales emphasis.*** They have closed several Heathkit Electronic Centers around the country and will now concentrate on business-to-business marketing. According to President Joe Shulte, Heath has moved away from the hobby merchandising business.

● The FCC has told the City of Bedford, Texas, that it **must reasonably accomodate amateur radio,** but the city is not quite sure what that means. (See Feb. 15 Report, page 5) The Bedford Planning and Zoning Commission has approved a compromise ordinance which limits towers to 55 feet. Amateur radio operators are insisting that 65 foot towers are needed to accomodate their hobby. In Gainesville, Texas, city commissioners are set to enact a 90 day moratorium on the construction of amateur radio antenna towers. Local hams are concerned that the moratorium may become a permanent ban. City says it only wishes to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

If you are an employee of any company or entity engaged in making, preparing or distributing amateur radio equipment or license preparation materials. My age is at least 18 years old."

to: W5YI-VEC; P.O. Box #565101; Dallas, Texas 75356-5101. A certificate (optional) is also available for $1.00. Details and accreditation materials will be sent to you in about two weeks.

UNLICENSED AMATEUR JAILED ...AGAIN!

Richard Burton, 45, Ex-WB6JAC, is once again back in jail for unlicensed amateur radio operation. His amateur license was originally revoked on September 11, 1981 for malicious interference, failure to use his assigned call sign, use of profane and obscene language, one-way communications (he was jamming a repeater by retransmitting Morse code) and broadcasting.

Burton refused to go off the air and was cited again in November 1981 and in January and April 1982. The FCC, unable to halt Burton's unlicensed radio operation, had him arrested on April 30, 1982. He was arraigned on May 3rd in the U.S. District (federal) Court, Los Angeles. A grand jury returned a seven count indictment against him.

On June 8, 1982, Burton was found guilty of "broadcasting obscene, indecent and profane language and for operating an amateur radio station without a license." Judge Manuel L. Real sentenced Burton to eight years imprisonment ...suspending all but six months. He could have received a ten year jail term and a $70,000 fine.

The Burton sentence was to be followed by five years probation during which he would perform 1500 hours of community service work. It marked the first time an amateur had been imprisoned for activity on the ham airwaves.

The case was the result of investigation by engineers from the Long Beach FCC field office who tracked the source of Burton's illegal two-meter ham band radio transmissions to his residence in Reseda, CA. The FCC received dozens of complaints from amateur radio operators in Southern California about the defendant's illegal and highly objectionable transmissions.

At the time there was some support for Burton in the Los Angeles amateur "Free Radio" community. Some amateurs felt the matter was a *Freedom of Speech* issue. Burton's five year probation was over around Christmastime.

Burton consented to a November 1989 radio interview on the controversial Tom Leykis KFI(AM) radio talk show aired from Los Angeles. Leykis has been having his own troubles with broadcast indecency. He received a $6,000 fine for airing three pieces of allegedly indecent dialogue last year. Leykis brought Burton onto his show because he said the situation was similar - but it really wasn't. KFI(AM) was FCC licensed when charged with broadcast indecency, Burton was unlicensed. A very big difference! Burton said he would be trying to get his ham ticket back.

The indecency crackdown was ordered by the FCC in response to a commitment made by new commissioners at their Senate confirmation hearings. Nearly a hundred indecency matters were acted upon by the commission. The FCC radio wave cleanup policy is now being challenged on First Amendment grounds by a coalition of broadcasting and public-interest groups who charge an inconsistency between the "old" FCC under former Chairman Dennis Patrick and the "new" commission under Chairman Alfred Sikes.

The point of the Leykis/Burton interview was that Burton was being persecuted for the way he expressed himself. Apparently Burton doesn't believe the government has the prerogative to restrain his First Amendment right to say what he thinks. Leykis said he believed that the free market itself should regulate content. In any event, it was widely reported during the past few weeks that Burton was back ranting on the 2-meter ham band even though he had not been relicensed as a radio amateur.

After many complaints, Burton was again arrested by the FCC and U.S. Marshalls on Wednesday, May 16th, on three felony counts of violation of Title 18 Section 301 and 501 which involves unlicensed radio operation. A search warrant had already uncovered an amateur 2-meter radio at the Burton residence some two weeks ago.

Burton allegedly made on-the-air threats against the judge, attorney ***Joe Merdler, N6AHU*** (who is Assistant ARRL Section Communications Manager, Los Angeles Section), and the FCC engineer-in-charge of the Long Beach office, Larry Guy. Reportedly, when arrested, Burton was throwing knives at a dartboard which contained a picture of the judge as its bullseye.

Burton refused to enter a plea at his arraignment and the court has now appointed a public defender in his behalf. Bail has been set at $10,000 and he remains jailed at the Metropolitan Correctional Institute, Los Angeles. Some Burton supporters have been appealing for funds on the two-meter airwaves trying to raise his bail.